

SENATE RESOLUTION 119

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Memphis native Julien Baker on the release of her new album.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this legislative body to recognize those Tennesseans who are wholly devoted to their craft and enrich the lives of their fellow citizens through their art; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Julien Baker, a gifted and accomplished singer-songwriter who recently released *The Record*, the first full-length effort from her band, boygenius; and

WHEREAS, lauded as a supergroup, boygenius pools the talents of Ms. Baker and fellow indie singer-songwriters Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus, all three revered vocalists and song crafters in their own right; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Julien Baker was born in Germantown and raised in the Bluff City suburb of Bartlett; her early experiences in performing took place in the Baptist church her family attended, but her musical sensibilities were shaped in her adolescent years by alternative, punk, hardcore, metalcore, and screamo bands; and

WHEREAS, while attending Arlington High School, she co-founded the band the Star Killers, later renamed Forrister; she went on to attend Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where she studied audio engineering before switching her major to literature and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, it was while at MTSU that she recorded an EP of songs she had written in her dorm room, which she then put on Bandcamp so that her friends could listen; however, the album was discovered and picked up by 6131 Records and became the studio album *Sprained Ankle*, which was released in October 2015 and garnered features in outlets such as *The New*

*Yorker* and *The New York Times*, with various critics hailing it as heartbreaking, hypnotic, and striking; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Julien Baker signed to Matador Records and released a seven-inch single consisting of the songs "Funeral Pyre" (previously called "Sad Song 11") and "Distant Solar Systems"; her second album, *Turn Out the Lights*, was recorded with engineer and producer Calvin Lauber in Memphis and released on October 27, 2017, to further acclaim, and she spent the following year touring across the U.S. and internationally, appearing on CBS *This Morning* and *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert and performing alongside artists including The National and Father John Misty; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baker had also toured with Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus, and in 2018, the three formed boygenius, releasing their eponymous EP that same year to widespread critical acclaim; four years later, the group released *The Record* on March 31, 2023, on Interscope Records, and it is already being called one of the best albums of the year; and

WHEREAS, ahead of the group's summer tour in the United States and Canada, *The Record* has peaked at No. 1 on the U.K. Official Albums Chart; it has also peaked at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Vinyl Albums chart and No. 4 on the *Billboard* Top 200 chart; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor the Tennessee troubadour Julien Baker, a vocalist and songwriter of the highest order who has brought much pride to her home state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate native Memphian Julien Baker on the recent release of *The Record* with boygenius, extending our best wishes for the album's continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.